



The Urban District of Sandbach



REPORT

on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE DISTRICT

for the year ended

31st December 1967

Medical Officer of Health

L. RICH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.,
9 PARK STREET, CONGLETON. Telephone 3655/6

Chief Public Health Inspector

N. A. ROGERS, M.A.P.H.I.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Sandbach Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1967 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District.

The population which for a number of years remained fairly stationary has recently begun to rise and now is at an estimated level of 11,160, an increase of 290 over the previous year.

It is reasonable to expect that this rise will continue because Sandbach is very favourably situated with an entrance onto the adjacent motorway and a railway station which is on the main electrified line to London. Indeed, the Surveyor has emphasised this point when he states in his section of the Report that the new sewerage and surface water schemes in the Middlewich Road and Park Lane areas will provide for considerable future development.

The table in the report showing the causes of death has remained in its present form for very many years. At one time infectious diseases were the major hazard and accounted overwhelmingly for the number of deaths. For a variety of reasons it is now rare to record a single death from these causes. Coronary Heart Disease now leads the list followed closely by Cancer and other diseases of the heart and blood vessels. Whereas deaths from Infectious Diseases largely occurred in young people, Heart Disease and Cancer are affecting the middle-aged and the elderly. The question arises what can be done to reduce this mortality. Medical research is the main hope and all over the world this goes on with ever-increasing impetus as new facts and relationships are revealed. As far as the individual is concerned there are certain irrefutable associations between our social habits and disease and death.

For example, cigarette smoking is the major cause in the tremendous increase in lung cancer. Air pollution as well as smoking are the main causes of Bronchitis, the most expensive and devastating illness in this country.

Over-indulgence in food, particularly starches and sweets, cause overweight and consequent extra strain on the heart and blood vessels.

Many of the factors which can keep people healthy and active can only be brought about in a well organised scheme of Health Education starting with the mother and her infant, through the schools and on into adult life to prepare for retirement and old age. It is to be hoped that in the reorganisations that are to come in the Health Services and in Local Government this most important aspect of preventive medicine will not be overlooked. The subject is so important that a new Health Service Council is being developed but farther than this we need Departments of Health Education at our Universities and Teacher Training Colleges.

Once again Measles is the most prevalent of our infectious diseases. But as has been forecast in previous Annual Reports the long awaited vaccination is now available and if all who are eligible avail themselves of this protection we should begin to see the end of this disease.

We have now established in Sandbach a regular Cervical Smear Clinic. This could be properly labelled as a Cancer Prevention Service, for in addition to the smear examination, a general clinical overhaul is given with particular attention to the breasts. It should be realised that cancer of the breast causes three times more deaths than that of the cervix. However, not all women are availing themselves of this valuable service and we now have no age restriction on those who can attend.

Once again I would like to thank Mr. N. A. Rogers, the Chief Public Health Inspector, for his most courteous and able assistance who, with Mr. H. J. Rees, the Engineer and Surveyor, has so substantially contributed to this report.

I would also like to take this opportunity of saying how much I appreciate the ready assistance given to me by the new Clerk of the Council, Mr. D. N. Mills.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,

Divisional Medical Officer

The figures in brackets are for the year 1966
to enable comparisons to be made

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population ... 11,160 (10,870)

Births

Live Births—

			<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>
Legitimate ...	...	211	(178)	113	(91)	98	(87)
Illegitimate ...	...	8	(9)	1	(4)	7	(5)

Still Births—

Legitimate ...	...	2	(4)	—	(1)	2	(3)
Illegitimate ...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid-1967 ... 20.7 (18.2)

Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population ... 17.2 (17.7)

Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... 9.0 (20.9)

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total (live and still) births ... 14.8 (15.4)

Still birth rate per 1000 total population 17 (.36)

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :

			<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>
Legitimate ...	...	7	(3)	5	(2)	2	(1)
Illegitimate ...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)

Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births ... 31.9 (16.0)

Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales ... 18.3 (19.0)

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ... 33.1 (16.8)

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ... — (—)

Deaths

Deaths (all ages) ... 151 (138) 76 (71) 75 (67)

Death rate per 1000 estimated average population ... 14.4 (13.7)

Death rate for England and Wales per 1000 of population ... 11.2 (11.7)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year :

CAUSE	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other forms of	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	7	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	8	4	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	5	3	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	8	6
Coronary disease, angina	29	14	15
Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	2
Other heart disease	14	5	9
Other circulatory disease	6	2	4
Influenza	2	1	1
Pneumonia	4	1	3
Bronchitis	15	11	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	9	13
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	5	4	1
Suicide	—	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
TOTAL	151	76	75

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis	0	(0)
Other Maternal causes	0	(0)
Maternity mortality rate per 1000 live and still births	0	(0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Health Visitors :

Mrs. E. O. Rae
Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach
Telephone : Sandbach 2970

Mrs. J. Hudson
Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach
Telephone : Sandbach 2970

Once again there has been an increase in the attendance at the Infant Welfare Clinic. These figures do not include the attendances for immunisation as these are now carried out at separate sessions. This enables the Staff and the Doctor to devote more time to problems raised by the mothers in connection with the rearing of their children.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the voluntary workers who render such valuable assistance at the Clinic. Their work is much appreciated by all concerned.

Statistics

Welfare Centre	New cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor	Av. attend'ce per Clinic
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5				
Sandbach	231	—	—	3755	704	559	102	388	7.6	49.1
Welfare Centre	(200)	(—)	(—)	(3673)	(722)	(893)	(102)	(335)	(6.5)	(51.8)

Special Clinics for Under 5

	New Cases			Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	30	136	8	17.0		
	(20)	(170)	(30)	(5.6)		
E.N.T. Clinic	13	20	11	1.8		
	(11)	(17)	(7)	(2.4)		

Special Clinics for School Children

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	51 (55)	499 (516)	36 (30)	13.8 (17.2)
E.N.T. Clinic	56 (16)	138 (36)	11 (7)	12.5 (7.1)

Preparation Class

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Preparation Class	60 (92)	498 (562)	39 (44)	12.7 (12.7)

Welfare Foods Sold - 1967

Distribution Centre	National Full Cream	Dried Milk Half Cream	A. & D. Tablets	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice
Welfare Centre, Sandbach ...	1010 (1041)	— (—)	347 (254)	162 (139)	2482 (2322)
Council Offices, Sandbach ...	109 (293)	13 (22)	23 (49)	27 (68)	64 (162)

Midwifery and Home Nursing

Midwifery and home nursing in the town is carried out by the following nurses :

Beatty, M. <i>(full time)</i>	5 Coronation Crescent, Sandbach	Sandbach 2731
Hoyle, I. (Mrs.) <i>(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)</i>	9 Offley Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 2852
Feehan, A. T. <i>(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)</i>	647 Crewe Road, Wheelock	Sandbach 2281
Wainwright, M. (Mrs.) <i>(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)</i>	87 Platt Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 2256

It is satisfactory to record that the work of our Home Nurses and Midwives has gone on at the same high standard and without a single complaint.

Once again numerous items of equipment have been loaned out in order to assist with the nursing of cases in their own homes.

These items consist of the following :

Air Beds	Commodes	Page Turner
Air Cushions	Crutches	Ripple Bed
Air Rings	Eneuresis Blankets	Rubber Sheets
Back Rests	Feeding Cups	Sanichairs
Bath Rails	Hoist	Special Bed
Bath Seat	Extending Pick-up	Tap Turners
Bath Step	Half Step and Stick	Tripod Walking Stick
Beds	Handy Spring Pole	Urine Bottles
Bed Cages	Lift	Walking Aid
Bed Cradles	Mackintosh Sheets	Walking Sticks
Bed Pans	Mattresses	Wheel Chairs

We are constantly enlarging and improving our equipment and we are open to receive suggestions in all cases where special items of equipment are needed.

The Divisional Health Committee can in suitable cases carry out adaption and alterations to homes to assist physically handicapped persons to manage more easily.

These take the form of providing hand rails, toilet aids, ramps, the widening of doors and the provision of paths where special motor vehicles are provided.

Births

Once again it is satisfactory to report that with 291 births notified there have been no maternal deaths.

Meals on Wheels

1967 was the ninth year of the service and it enables the W.R.V.S. to keep a wonderful contact between themselves and the recipients.

The drivers and aides who work to a rota do many little kindnesses and give help when it is needed.

From January to the end of September, 27 meals were delivered twice a week making a total of 2,106 meals delivered during the period. From 1st October to the end of December, 20 meals were delivered four times a week, making a total of 1,040 meals delivered.

Club for Physically Handicapped Persons

The Club for Physically Handicapped Persons is run in two sections. The social side, which is organised by the W.R.V.S. meets fortnightly on Friday evenings at the Ashfields Clinic. The Handicraft section works in conjunction with the Leonard Cheshire Home where it meets weekly.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Completed Primary Courses – Persons under age 16 (South East Cheshire)

Type of Vaccine	1967	Year of Birth				Others Under 16	Total	
		1966	1965	1964	1963-60		At Clinics	By G.P.'s
Quadruple	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Triple (D/W.C./T)	536	644	90	27	33	20	629	721
Diph./Whooping C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diph./Tetanus ...	—	—	—	—	8	2	6	4
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Whooping Cough...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	13
Polio-Salk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Sabin	456	683	73	29	73	67	667	714

Reinforcing Doses – Persons under age 16 (South East Cheshire)

Type of Vaccine	1967	Year of Birth				Others Under 16	Total	
		1966	1965	1964	1963-60		At Clinics	By G.P.'s
Quadruple	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Triple (D/W.C./T)	—	107	246	39	307	20	287	432
Diph./Whooping C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diph./Tetanus ...	—	7	17	19	434	43	338	182
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	8
Whooping Cough...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus	—	—	—	2	8	67	—	77
Polio-Salk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Sabin	—	119	267	61	657	122	650	576

Smallpox Vaccination – Persons under age 16 (South East Cheshire)

	1967	Year of Birth			Others under 16		At Clinics	By G.P.'s
		1966	1965-63	1962-53	16	Total		
Vaccination	31	391	277	54	16	769	297	472
Re-Vaccinated ...	—	21	11	38	54	124	2	122

Public Health Laboratory Service

We have continued to use the new laboratory at Chester and I should like to pay tribute to the services given and the help and advice we receive from the Pathologist in charge.

Domestic Help Service

Statistics relating to the Home Help Services provided in Sandbach during 1967 are as follows :

Home Helps employed during 1967

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Part time	...	...	...	...	...	31	(29)
						31	(29)

Home Helps employed at 31st December 1967

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Part time	...	...	...	...	...	19	(16)
						19	(16)

Applications received during 1967

Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	30	(25)
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	6	(—)
Mentally Disordered	...	...	...	...	...	—	(1)
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	7	(8)
Others	...	...	...	...	...	1	(8)
						44	(42)

Cases attended during 1967

Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	67	(53)
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	7	(4)
Mentally Disordered	...	...	...	...	...	—	(1)
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	8	(7)
Others	...	...	...	...	...	3	(8)
						85	(73)

Cases receiving attention at 31st December 1967

Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	46	(38)
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	6	(4)
Mentally Disordered	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Others	...	...	...	...	...	—	(1)
						52	(43)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Sandbach is supplied with River Dee water, which is of moderate hardness, from the Hurleston Treatment Works. During the year the new service reservoir at Smallwood has been completed.

Regular bacteriological samples are taken in all districts. The water has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Work commenced in May 1967, on the sewerage and surface water scheme for the Middlewich Road and Park Lane areas, and by the end of the year the scheme was nearing completion.

This scheme, when completed, will, in addition to the alleviation of the present sewerage and surface water difficulties in the locality, provide drainage facilities for considerable development in the future.

Housing

The Hill Factory Lane Housing Scheme for 74 houses was completed in November 1967.

Work on the Bailey Crescent site involving the demolition of the 20 prefabricated houses and the construction of 35 dwellings, comprising 12 three-bedroomed houses, 11 two-bedroomed bungalows and 12 one-bedroom bungalows proceeded throughout the year and at the end of the year 32 of the dwellings had been completed.

In August 1967, work commenced on the construction of nine one-bedroomed bungalows at Townfields.

During 1967, 155 dwellings were completed by private enterprise.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1967

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION													Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over			
Measles	5	28	28	27	19	76	4	2	-	-	-	-	189	-	
Scarlet Fever ...	-	1	1	1	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	8	-	
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	

Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes, I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1967 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1958.

Notifications – 1958 to 1967

	1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963		1964		1965		1966		1967	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14							1													
15-24																				
25-34	1		1								1									
35-44								1						1						
45-54																				
55-64														1						
65 and over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14			1																	
15-24																				
25-34	1						1	1												
35-44																			2	
45-54																				
55-64													1							
65 and over																				
Total	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	-

Deaths – 1958 to 1967

	1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963		1964		1965		1966		1967	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34																				
35-44																				
45-54																				
55-64	1														1					
65 and over									1				1							
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34																				
35-44																				
45-54																				
55-64																				
65 and over																				
Total	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Cases on Register at 31st December 1967

		Up to								65 &		
		1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	over	Total	
Male	Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	2	-	9	
Female	Pulmonary	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	1	1	8	
Male	Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	1	5	
Female	Non-Pulmonary...	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	5	

The following sections of this report have been compiled by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers.

Public Health Inspection

Number of Inspections and Visits during 1967	...	...	3368
Number of Informal Notices served during 1967	...	...	84
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1967	...		93
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at 31/12/67	...		11
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1967	...	...	0
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1967	...		0

The number of visits and inspections recorded under this heading is less than for the last few years, this being due to a substantial increase in visits concerned with the other section of the Department, Council House Management. The operation of a joint Public Health/Housing Department has many advantages, but routine Public Health Inspections sometimes have to suffer when there is a pressure of housing activity.

The daily life of a Public Health Inspector becomes more onerous as each year goes by, not only because of the growing number of laws and regulations but because the attitude of many members of the public becomes increasingly selfish and intolerant. There is much satisfaction in being the means whereby conditions are improved and wrongs are righted, but a disproportionate part of an Inspector's time nowadays is spent in investigating flimsy or malicious complaints.

For the second consecutive year it was not found necessary to resort to statutory action. The Council rightly support the principle of informal procedure to the greatest possible extent and the results have proved the efficacy of this policy.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

A Working Party Report issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in May 1967, provided a good yardstick by which to assess the efficiency of the Refuse Collection Service in this district. On the one hand it may be felt that Sandbach is in advance of those Authorities which still employ the kerbside collection and

skep systems, but on the other hand, anything short of a regular 7-day collection cycle throughout the whole district must be regarded as inadequate.

Extensive housing development in this area, the tendency to install non-solid fuel heating systems, difficulty of access to dustbins because of cars parked alongside houses, the increasing trend of providing more than one bin per household, and the advantage taken of the Council's willingness to remove items other than normal household refuse, have all placed a greater strain on the service. The time is rapidly approaching when this Council will have to consider an overhaul of the Cleansing Department with a view to increasing the number of vehicles and workmen.

Refuse Disposal

For most of the year the collected refuse was tipped on farmland at the request of the owner for levelling purposes, but when the epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease arose in October it became necessary to revert to the use of the Council's own tip at Malkins Bank. At this site there is comparatively little tipping space left and enquiries are still proceeding with a view to obtaining other suitable land.

For several years the Council has followed the practice which is now being recommended in the Civic Amenities Act of providing facilities for members of the public to dispose of their rubbish. The Malkins Bank Tip has been left open for use by the public at any time with a view to discouraging indiscriminate dumping in other places. Other problems are presented due to the fact that the tip is not always under supervision, but in general it is felt that the system has been of great benefit to the district as a whole.

Supply of Dustbins

The Council does not operate a Dustbin Scheme under Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act 1936, but a supply of dustbins is kept for sale on request. 152 properties were supplied in this way.

Householders purchasing bins are offered rubber lids at an extra cost of 1/6d, but these have not been in great demand.

Conservancy

The scheme whereby arrangements were made with Congleton Rural District Council for the emptying of pail closets in this area has continued throughout the year and has worked very satisfactorily. Eleven houses are thus served and three pails from other

types of premises are also emptied. It is pleasing that the proportion of unsewered properties in the district is extremely low despite the fact that this is a semi-rural area.

Public Conveniences

During the year the control of the Conveniences at the entrance to Sandbach Park was transferred to the Public Health Department, and these Conveniences were then modernised and brought into greater use.

Additional wash-basins were also installed in the town-centre Conveniences in order to provide improved facilities for the market traders.

The damage and ill-use of the Public Conveniences has been somewhat less in the year under review, but it is still unfortunate that the decent members of the public have to be inconvenienced by the misbehaviour of a few hooligans.

HOUSING

Unfit Houses

(a) Individual Houses

Number of Demolition Orders made	—
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
Number of houses demolished as a result of informal action	1
Number of unfit houses closed under Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957	7
Number of houses closed in pursuance of undertakings given by owners	—

(b) Clearance Areas

Number of Areas declared during the year	—
Number of Orders made during the year	—
Number of houses demolished	—

(c) Rehousing from Unfit Houses

Number of families rehoused	7
Number of persons rehoused	14

A Clearance Area involving 32 houses in Chapel Street was declared in July 1966, but the making of the Clearance Order was deferred because of discussions which were taking place with the County Council on the question of a new by-pass road in this neighbourhood. The position has still not been resolved and the owners of the houses concerned are left in a very confused position.

Reports were also made to the Council in respect of the unfitness of nine houses at East Elworth and, in the particular circumstances of this case, the Council decided to negotiate for the purchase of the site and buildings with a view to the land being redeveloped with accommodation for elderly persons.

Closing Orders have been made in respect of nine houses at Forge Fields with a view to starting a tidying-up of this area. A further ten houses in the vicinity were under consideration at the close of the year.

An estate of 74 Council houses, initially intended for slum clearance rehousing, was completed during the year; but the occupiers of unfit houses ceased to be co-operative when they learned that the new Council houses were to be let at inclusive rents up to £4/9/5d per week. In the few cases where rehousing was effected advantage was taken of vacancies in older Council houses where the lower rents were much more acceptable.

Repairs

Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied by owners as a result of informal action	4
Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of formal action	—

Certificates of Disrepair

There was no action whatsoever during 1967 concerning Certificates of Disrepair.

Standard Grants

	<i>Owner/Occupier</i>	<i>Tenanted</i>
Number of applications received	22	4
Number of applications approved... ..	22	4
Number of applications refused	—	—
Number of dwellings improved	7	4
Amount paid in grants	£1214	
Average grant per house	£101	

Amenities provided

(a) fixed bath	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) shower	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(c) wash-hand basin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(d) hot water supply (to any fittings)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(e) water closet (1) within dwelling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
(2) accessible from dwelling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(f) food store	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Discretionary Grants

		<i>Owner/Occupier</i>	<i>Tenanted</i>
Number of applications received		2	—
Number of applications approved	...	2	—
Number of applications refused		—	—
Number of dwellings improved		1	—
Amount paid in grants		£66	

The total number of Improvement Grants approved since the Scheme began is 250.

Housing Act 1964

The Council have not established any Improvement Areas under this Act, nor has there been any desire to invoke compulsory action on improvements. This legislation does not appear to have attracted much enthusiasm amongst Local Authorities generally and it may be felt that this results from the impractical nature of the procedure laid down.

Rehousing

The following is a statement of the latest position with regard to the Register of Applicants for tenancies of Council houses and flats :

Applicants on Waiting List for less than 1 year		105
Applicants on Waiting List between 1 and 2 years		12
Applicants on Waiting List between 2 and 3 years		6
Applicants on Waiting List over 3 years		4
Total number of "live" applicants on current register	...	127

65 applicants from the general waiting list were rehoused during 1967, together with 7 families from "condemned" houses. In addition, there were 69 applicants on the Bungalow waiting list, 21 cases having been accommodated during the year ; and 33 applicants were waiting for flatlet tenancies at Lightley Court.

Moveable Dwellings

Three short-term site licences for individual caravans were issued during 1967 and one of these was still operative at the end of the year. In addition, the licence in respect of a site for 25 residential caravans was still in force. The caravans and facilities on this site are of a high standard and the site is well operated.

Police assistance was secured in one instance where it became necessary to remove some itinerant workers who were occupying a caravan on an unlicensed site and creating very insanitary conditions.

FOOD

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The one licensed Slaughterhouse in the Urban District has been continued in use throughout the year. Whilst the premises are not of modern design, the proprietor of the business uses them to the best advantage and further improvements have been carried out at the instigation of the Health Department. The statistics indicate that the slaughtering throughput followed closely the pattern of last year. Very little of the meat produced at this slaughterhouse went for consumption locally, but the quality of beef slaughtered for the city areas was higher than hitherto.

During the year the Council again considered the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations 1966, and, by agreement with the Slaughterhouse proprietor, slaughtering was restricted to the hours between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. daily, subject to review in 12 months' time. This may be regarded as a generous decision on the part of the Council and other arrangements would certainly have to be considered if the Meat Inspection staff became less readily available.

Meat Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Animals slaughtered and Inspected	170	654	217	7612	917	9570
(There were no horses slaughtered in the Urban District during 1967)						

CONDEMNATIONS

All diseases except Tuberculosis:

Whole carcasses con- demned	4	31	10	1	30	76
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	74	484	—	1290	93	1941
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	46%	79%	4%	17%	13%	21%

Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	1	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.1%	0.01%

Analysis in lb. of Condemned Meat

	Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	14
Parasites and Cysts	5478	—	1940	9
Angioma	996	—	—	—
Oedema	12174	142	—	742
Emaciation	—	64	41	142
Inflammation	151	—	—	50
Septicaemia	584	152	—	164
Blood diseases	876	—	—	70
Pyaemia	—	138	—	—
Immaturity	—	27	—	—
Gangrene	—	—	—	114
Fever	722	—	—	208
Lead Poisoning	466	—	—	—
Abscesses	346	—	15	1412
Miscellaneous and Injury	3900	—	28	394
	25693	523	2024	3319

It is interesting to observe the trend in the comparative amounts of beef condemned in the last four years :

Average amount condemned per Beast Slaughtered

		<i>All Diseases</i>		<i>Tuberculosis only</i>
1964	...	41 lb	...	0.007 lb
1965	...	22 lb	...	—
1966	...	43 lb	...	—
1967	...	31 lb	...	—

Slaughter of Animals Act 1958

Two applications for licences to slaughter animals were approved.

Food Hygiene

Regular inspections of food premises have been made throughout the year. In general it is found that shopkeepers and food handlers are receptive to informal discussions during their work and more co-operative as a result.

The number of Food Premises (in broad categories) in the Urban District is as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	4
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	7
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	12
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	8
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grocers and General	...	...	...	...	...	45
Public Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	25
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	6
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	10

All premises are fitted to comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

In addition, 48 stalls in the Council's weekly market are hired for the sale of a variety of foods. For many years the Council has not allowed unwrapped food, except fruit and vegetables, to be sold in the open air. The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and

Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966, now require that fruit and vegetables must be suitably protected, and in the case of the kerb-side section of Sandbach Market this will probably entail a major reorganisation. It is interesting to note how many Local Authorities are temporarily avoiding this issue and waiting to see what their neighbours are doing about it. Other market improvements required under the Regulations with regard to washing facilities, etc. have been implemented.

A number of food delivery vehicles in the district have also been provided with additional facilities to comply with these regulations.

Unsound Food

The following unsound foods were condemned upon voluntary surrender at shop premises :

Raw Meat	...	...	...	...	...	54 lb
Wet Fish	...	...	...	...	...	70 lb
Canned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	1383½ lb
Canned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	61 lb
Canned Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	1054¼ lb
Other Foods	...	...	...	...	...	49½ lb
						2672¼ lb

Only one instance concerning foreign matter in food was brought to the attention of the Public Health Department. This was in respect of a piece of steel in a meal served at a local restaurant. Investigation revealed that the metal had come from a potato-chipping machine and the proprietor of the business had the defective parts renewed forthwith. The Council felt that a written warning to the responsible person would suffice in this instance.

Milk

Dealer's Licences are issued by the County Council. There are two dairy herds in this district from which milk is sold raw to the public.

The County Health Department have supplied the following statistics covering samples of raw milk taken to ascertain the presence of *Brucella Abortus*.

	Total Submitted	Number Brucella Positive
Bulk Samples 	22	—
Dealer Samples (Herd Samples)	17	—
Individual Cow Samples	20	—
	—	—
Total	59	—
	—	—

One of the two dairy herds mentioned above had been a source of difficulty for several years in regard to intermittent brucella-positive samples. After infected cows had been disposed of, a series of negative samples in 1967 gave cause for some optimism in this respect, but in the autumn the herd was tragically eliminated in the epidemic of foot and mouth disease.

Ice Cream

52 premises are registered by the Local Authority for the sale of Ice Cream. Only wrapped ice cream was sold from these premises and no ice cream is known to have been manufactured in the district during the year.

Only two samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. One of these, from an itinerant vendor, was unsatisfactory ; but the vendor subsequently ceased to visit this district and the Local Authority covering the place of production was informed.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Urban District.

Poultry Processing Establishments

There are no poultry processing establishments in the Urban District.

Other Registered Premises

14 premises are registered by the Local Authority under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the preparation of cooked meats, etc. and 8 premises are registered for fish frying.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rodent Control

A trained Rodent Operator, working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors, spends approximately 20 hours per week on these duties.

The following treatments were carried out during the year :

Business Premises	...	...	...	...	175
Agricultural Properties	...	...	...	...	40
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	150
Local Authority Undertakings	...				26
					391

By means of annual contracts the Council deals with 19 commercial and 6 agricultural properties, and this system gives satisfactory results to all concerned.

The sewers throughout the district are tested annually, and treated for rat infestation.

The amount of work carried out on rodent control has increased substantially. It is pleasing to report that this is not due to an increase in infestations but to the fact that the Council now has a more industrious and conscientious operator.

Atmospheric Pollution

The Council have not yet taken any steps towards the establishment of Smoke Control Areas.

There has been comparatively little need for action during 1967 in regard to smoke emission from industrial sources, but supervision still has to be exercised in respect of a particular salt-works.

Noise Abatement

The investigation of alleged noise nuisances during the past year occupied a considerable amount of time, in some instances entailing long periods of observations during the nights.

Noise from the exhaust blower of a vacuum salt-making plant was considerably reduced by technical alterations after several months of experimental efforts by the firm. Vibration arising from

the compressors at a large factory was eliminated by a reconstruction of the air intake. These are instances where nuisance to householders was proved and effective action was taken ; but there were many other cases where either the complaints were trivial or the Inspector's investigations did not justify further action. The conclusion in these instances was never satisfactory because hearing and the extent of nuisance on a particular ear is a personal thing and the individual concerned cannot be convinced in general terms or by the impersonal recordings of sound measuring equipment.

There is an obvious need for up-to-date education of the technical officers concerned on this subject, and the Chief Public Health Inspector attended a Course of Instruction during the year.

Other Public Nuisances

A serious nuisance of offensive smells arising from an industrial waste tip in the adjoining Rural District was mentioned in last year's report. High Court proceedings instituted by the Rural District Council resulted in the granting of an injunction against the tip owner in October, but this was by no means the end of the trouble and it appears that the practical remedy of the nuisance may take a considerable time.

Fumes from the calcining of bones at a local works were also the subject of persistent complaints and the Council has indicated its intention to take statutory action if the nuisance persists.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving general insp. during year
Offices	—	34	22
Retail Shops	2	56	35
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	—	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	11	2
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	102	60

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises under the Act 112

Exemptions

No applications were received for exemption from the provisions of the Act.

Accidents

There were no reported accidents during 1967.

Factories Act 1961

Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

Premises	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	7	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	67	20	—	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	10	9	—	—
TOTAL	89	36	—	—

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conven'nces (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable/defect.	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not sep. for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

Outworkers — Nil

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